Purchase of Power from Nepal

550. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Nepal had negotiated for purchase of surplus energy from Nepal;

(b) if so, from which sources surplus power in available; and

(c) what are the terms of the agreement, if any, signed with Nepal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) India and Nepal had signed a Treaty on the Mahakali river on 29th January, 1996. The Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty was exchanged during the Prime Minister's visit to Nepal in June, 1997. The Mahakali Treaty has come into force from 6.6.1997. A power exchange agreement was executed by the Secretary (Power) on behalf of Government of India in Feb., 1996.

The Mahakali Treaty envisages construction of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on the river Mahakali which will be a source of surplus power. The Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project envisages construction of a storage dam. Two underground power houses on either bank of the river. The project would be implemented in a phased manner and has a potential of about 3000 MW. A re-regulating structure would be required for exploiting the full power potential. A Detailed Project Report is under preparation.

A portion of Nepal's share of energy shall be sold to India. The quantum of such energy and its price shall be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

Constitution of Central Electricity Regulation Authority

551. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to constitute Central Electricity Regulatory Authority was submitted sometimes back by his Ministry for cabinet's approval, if so, whether the same has been approved;

(b) the salient features of proposal so submitted;

(c) whether it is a fact that Central Electricity Authority (CEA) officers have resisted the proposal and have been demanding that the Government should convert the authority into CERC and respect its autonomy as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 7th July, 1997;

(d) what is the present status of these authorities; and

(e) by when such stalemet would be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Power Engineers Association of the CEA have made certain suggestions about the formation of the regulatory authority at the Centre and strengthening of the CEA.

(d) and (e) The Government is in the process of finalising the proposal and it is expected that a Bill will be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Parliament.